

MILITARY AND OVERSEAS CITIZEN VOTING NEWS

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INTRODUCING THE FIRST EDITION OF “MILITARY AND OVERSEAS CITIZEN VOTING NEWS”

Dear Election Officials,

While many voters are able to head to the polls, or mail in their absentee ballot without issue, many others face challenges in submitting their ballots. Among them are over six million military and overseas voters located throughout the world. For decades, the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) has worked with state and local election officials to facilitate the absentee voting process for citizens covered by the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)*. A key aspect of this partnership is communication. The FVAP is introducing “Military and Overseas Citizen Voting News” to state and local election officials. Each edition of the newsletter will feature a specific *UOCAVA* topic. Please distribute this newsletter internally within your office to all election staff and e-mail us with your ideas for future newsletter topics. We hope you find this newsletter to be an informative and useful tool..



Visit the FVAP
Website!

P.K. Brunelli
Director, FVAP

FVAP Available for Assistance and Training

If you need information on military or overseas citizen voting matters, visit the FVAP website at www.fvap.gov or call us at 1-800-438-8683. If you are interested in having an FVAP representative speak at your next statewide training or meeting, encourage your state election office or state association to contact us. Also, if there is a National Guard Unit or a Reserve unit in your area that is going on active duty, contact FVAP and our staff will provide them with information on *UOCAVA* absentee voting procedures to follow during their deployment and upon their return.

Have you checked the local election official section of the Federal Voting Assistance Program Website? Go to www.fvap.gov/leo/leo.html and see how much useful information there is for a local election official!

FPCAs on File for Two Election Cycles

When a voter covered under the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act* (UOCAVA) submits a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) form, you are required to mail ballots to that voter for each subsequent election for Federal office through the next two general Federal elections, unless the voter specifically requests otherwise.

Examples:

- If you received an FPCA from a UOCAVA citizen *prior to* the 2006 General Election, you are required to mail ballots to that individual for each election that includes Federal offices through the 2008 election cycle.
- If you received/receive an FPCA from a UOCAVA citizen *after* the 2006 General Election, you are required to mail ballots to that individual for each election that includes Federal offices through the 2010 election cycle.

If you receive a state application form from a UOCAVA voter, you are required to mail a ballot to that voter. While the Act does not require or prohibit that a state application form serve as a ballot request for two general Federal elections, treating it as such helps to fulfill the Act's purpose of facilitating the voting process for UOCAVA citizens.

The FVAP utilizes materials and training to encourage all UOCAVA citizens to send a new FPCA or other notification to the local election official every year and whenever there is a change of name or address.

Remember that UOCAVA voters whose FPCA is on file are eligible to use the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB) for the general election.

USPS Election Mail Resources

For information on preparing and sending election mail, visit the United States Postal Service (USPS) Election Officials' Mailing Resources site at www.usps.com/electionmail. The USPS also offers election mail training at state and association conferences. For more information contact Debbie Bell at 202-268-4111 or debora.a.bell@usps.gov.

In addition, the USPS will soon be introducing a new tag that can be placed on outgoing trays, bundled mail, pallets, etc. to specifically identify and differentiate domestic and overseas absentee ballots from political mailings. Tag # 191 (color TBD) will be available at local post office locations, and on the USPS website for downloading and printing.

FVAP Contact Information

Email: vote@fvap.ncr.gov

Toll free number: 1-800-438-VOTE (8683)

Fax: (703) 696-1352

Website: www.fvap.gov

Mail:

Federal Voting Assistance Program
Department of Defense
1777 N. Kent St. Suite 14003
Arlington, VA 22209-2162